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History of California will conclude that it is much safer and easier to draw upon the imagination for the production of her peculiar kind of fiction.

Loretto Annals of the Century, by Anna C. Minogue. With an Introduction by Most Rev. John J. Glennon, D. D., Archbishop of St. Louis. Published by the American Press, New York, 1912. Pp. 252.

The purpose of this valuable work is to give a historical sketch of the Loretine Sisterhood, or rather, of the Friends of Mary at the Foot of the Cross, as the Society was called by its holy founder, Rev. Charles Nerinckx. Other books have appeared in the past, which were by their nature compelled to give some attention to the work of the Loretines. The one that perhaps deserves most attention is the excellent *Life of Rev. Charles Nerinckx*, by Rt. Rev. Camillus P. Maes, D.D., Bishop of Covington. But as this work was written as early as 1880, when the Society, founded by Father Nerinckx, had not yet reached the seventy-fifth year of its career, no apology need be given for a new historical sketch of the Friends of Mary. The occasion, namely, the centennial celebration of the foundation of the Loretine Society, was a most opportune one for the appearance of such a work. Though it is not a comprehensive history of the Sisterhood, it is nevertheless of great importance and value in the field of American Catholic history.

The excuse of the author in the foreword might have been omitted. She pleads inability; the work, however, which she had produced, gives sufficient evidence of her ability to write history. She set about her work as a true historian, gathering all the material available for the accomplishment of her task. Of her veracity there can be no doubt, for she does not shrink from relating some of those unfortunate happenings, which any religious community would prefer not to see in print. The style of the author is beautiful and interesting throughout, even when she recounts the dry facts concerning the foundation of various branch houses of the community in the States of the Middle West. The book is so well done that it is difficult to see how any one could begin the reading of it without desiring to peruse the contents of the succeeding chapters. This circumstance is due principally to the emotional element, which permeates this work and lifts it to a higher plane out of the sphere of pure historical narration; on every page there is evidence of the author's love, admiration, and veneration for the Sisters of Loretto. She leads her readers from one point to another, arousing their sorrow and sympathy for the nuns in adversity and distress, call-

ing upon them to rejoice in their successes, bringing them to admire their spirit of self-sacrifice, and compelling them to look with favor upon the friends and with disfavor upon the enemies of the Society. Above all, the book must be commended for the spiritual note that is traceable throughout its pages, for the characters, which are treated by the author, are religious men and women, who cared nothing for worldly things, but were intent only upon bringing others to a better knowledge and a more faithful service of God. All the most noble Christian virtues are beautifully exemplified in the numerous edifying character sketches that fill this volume.

The work contains thirteen chapters. The first six chapters are devoted to the life and deeds of Father Nerinckx as well as to the first years of the existence of the Loretine Society, whose early history must ever be considered conjointly with that of its virtuous founder. Father Nerinckx was a Belgian by birth, and like many of his countrymen, escaped from the religious persecution that dominated their native land during the French Revolution, and came to America, where he labored successfully in the missions of Kentucky for several years. Father Nerinckx' principal concern was the education of the children, and to accomplish this he planned the foundation of a Sisterhood and Brotherhood. The Brotherhood scarcely outlived its birth, while the Sisterhood was also a failure, as far as his attempts were concerned, for it finally arose independently and, as it were, in spite of him. The characteristic note of his whole life seems to have been persecution and failure; he endured persecution in his native land; he suffered all that early missionaries in every region have to suffer; he failed in his attempts to establish the two religious societies; finally, he became a voluntary exile from his adopted home in Kentucky to avoid a clash with a "fellow-priest.—The other seven chapters of the book deal with the history of the Loretines from 1824, the date of Father Nerinckx' death, to 1912, the date of the Society's centennial. During the hundred years of its existence, the Society had erected a hundred and nineteen academies and schools in fourteen different states. The history of several of these foundations, as described by the author, make very interesting, instructive, and edifying reading.

While the book is worthy of the greatest praise from the standpoint of history, there are certain points about it that cannot escape the careful reader. In regard to content, at least, a synopsis of the original Rule ought to be given; the reader is told that Father Chabrat, the successor of Father Nerinckx as director of the community, introduced some unwelcome changes into the Rule, but the reader's curiosity to know the importance of these changes is not satisfied; the Rule undergoes a recen-

sion, is approved a second time by Pius IX, but again, there is practically no indication of the changes that were made; finally, the reader is informed that the original Rule was for the most part restored and approved by Pius X in 1904, but is still left in ignorance of the content of that Rule. The Rule may be too long to give in full, but at least a synopsis of it would be acceptable to every reader. As to the collocation of the chapters in the book, it could scarcely be improved. There is no necessity, however, for the Appendix; the lists of Ecclesiastical Superiors, Cardinal Protectors, Mother Superiors, and Foundations might be left as they are; but the rest of the Appendix could be worked into the text, or be omitted; the two historical records of "The Beginning of Calvary (1816)" and the "Items from Calvary's Financial Records (1823)" would not be out of place on page 50 in connection with the account of the foundation of the branch house at Calvary; the first poem of Sister M. Wilfrid LaMotte entitled, "Reverend Charles Nerinckx," could be very appropriately placed on page 76 after the account of the death of Father Nerinckx; the "Lines written on the occasion of the Diamond Memorial of the Loretto Society," by Rev. M. Carmody, might be introduced into the text either by a brief reference to the occasion or in connection with the record of the foundation of St. Mary's Academy, Denver, to whose sisters and pupils the lines were dedicated; the poems, "God's Envoy," by Thomas Walsh, as well as the second poem entitled "Rev. Charles Nerinckx," by Sister M. Wilfrid LaMotte, should be placed on page 232 after the second paragraph, in which there is mention of the unveiling of the statue of Father Nerinckx; the two poems, "Sedet Mater Gloriosa," and "Father Wuyts and John Morgan," have no bearing upon the subject of the book, and hence, it would be better to omit them.—In regard to the illustrations, it is sufficient to say that the book would be greatly improved, if more care were taken in placing them; whilst some of them are well located, others are several pages from where they should be. The position of one inscribed, "Record of the First Holy Name Society in the United States," must attract the attention of every reader of this book, for, though the illustration is inserted at page 54, there is no mention of this Holy Name Society, organized in 1809 by Father Nerinckx, until page 232, in the second last paragraph of the book.—As a criticism of the author's language, a few words will suffice. She possesses an excellent command of English, but a few errors are noticeable, which are due, perhaps, more to oversight than to ignorance; according to Webster's Dictionary, "emprise" on page 2 is an archaic form of "enterprise," and "builded" on pages 36 and 192. as the past participle of "build," is likewise antiquated; the combination of the words "quaint ancient city" on page 142 is bad enough, but the

expression "earlier pioneer," which occurs on the next page, is absolutely unjustifiable. There is still another point, to which the author's attention might be called; this is the frequency of typographical errors; though these have nothing to do with the content of the work, the frequency of their occurrence shows either that the author was not very careful in the reading of the proofs, or the publishers did not make the necessary corrections.

With the exception of the few unimportant defects, to which attention has been called, the *Loretto Annals of the Century* not only affords to the general reader interesting and instructive reading, but it is likewise an important contribution to the history of Catholicity in America.

Venerable Philippine Duchesne, by G. E. M. A Brief Sketch of the Life and Work of the Foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart in America. New York, The American Press, 1914. Pp. 44.

This little volume not only gives a short history of the Venerable Philippine Duchesne, it also forms a chapter in the history of the Catholic educational and charitable institutions in this country. Its pages breathe a spirit of extraordinary self-sacrifice and genuine heroism. They reveal the many difficulties which Mother Duchesne had to overcome before she could consecrate her life to God in a religious community and successfully establish the society of the Sacred Heart in the New World. The work should furnish excellent reading for our Catholic women; it ought to be a favorite among the nuns of the Sacred Heart and their students.

The Glories of Ireland. Edited by Joseph Dunn, Ph. D. and P. J. Lennox, Lit. D., Professors at the Catholic University of America. Phoenix Limited, Washington, D. C., 1914. 80., pp. x + 357.

Many of the twenty-five chapters which make up this collection of essays have a special interest for the student of American history and especially of American Catholic history. Each chapter bears the name of some acknowledged authority in some field of Celtic or Irish learning and to each is appended a select bibliography. The connection of the Irish race with the Western world has always been very close in legend as well as in fact, and the large part played by people of Irish blood in the affairs of the new world deserves deeper study and wider acknowledgment. That the Irish have been a real factor in the life of America goes